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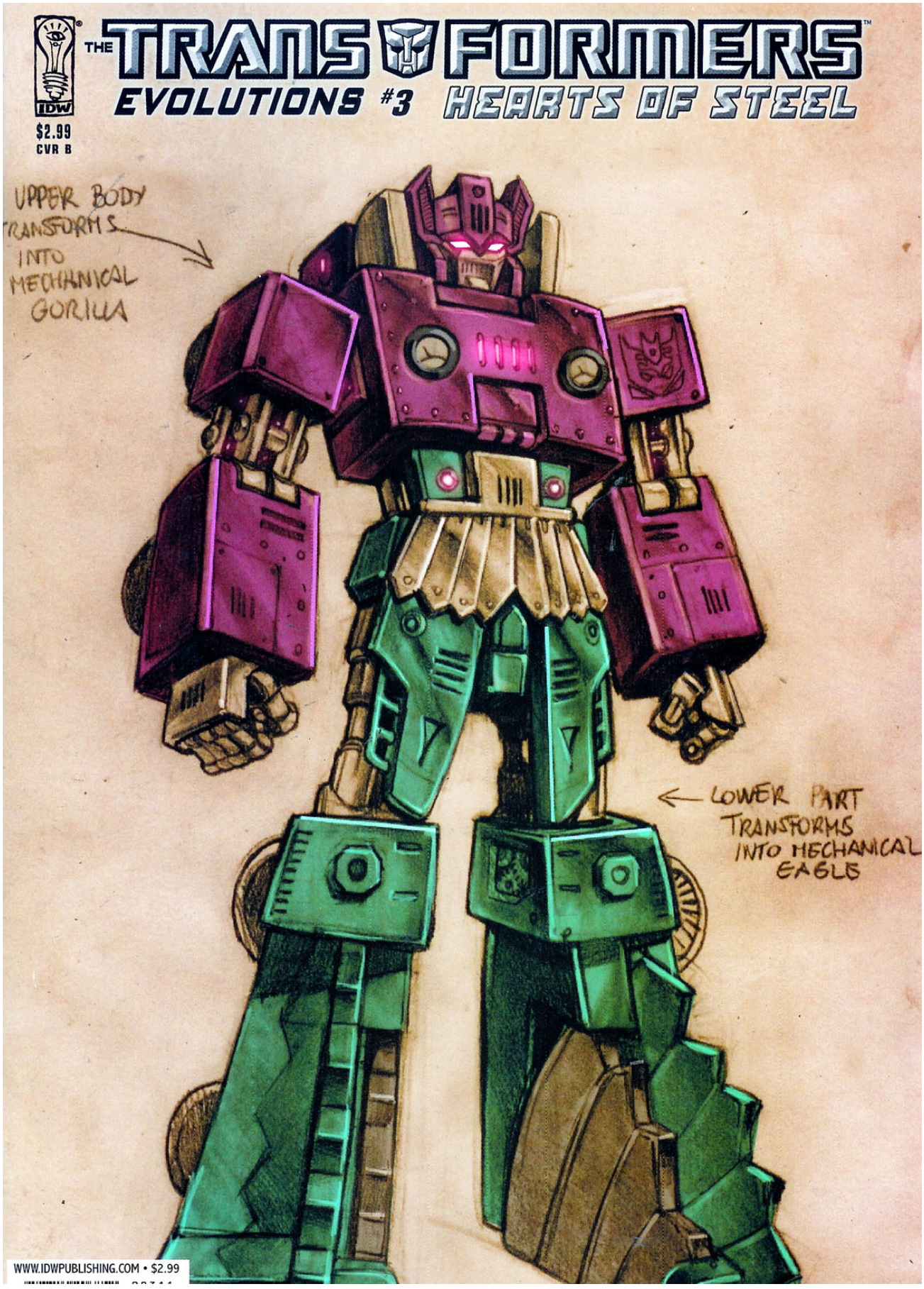
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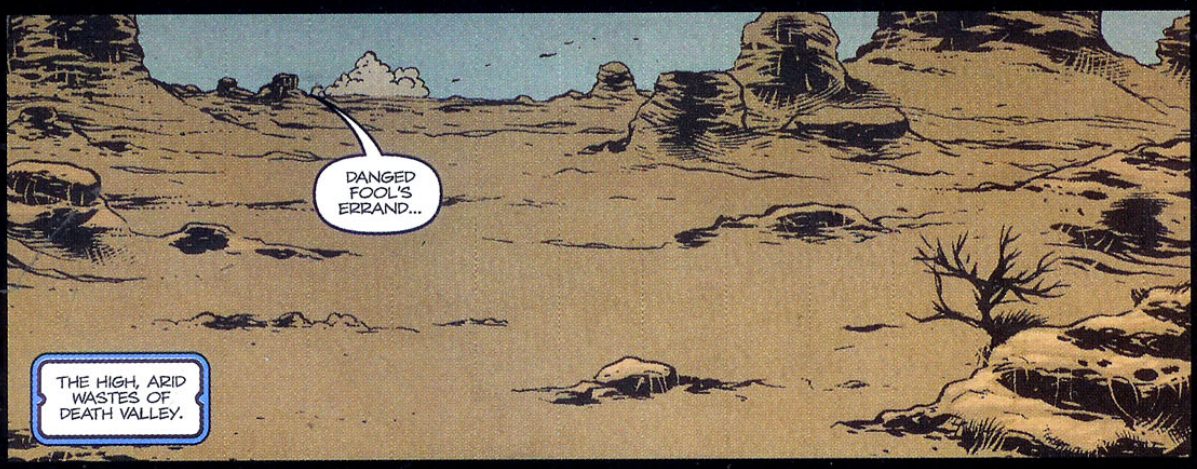
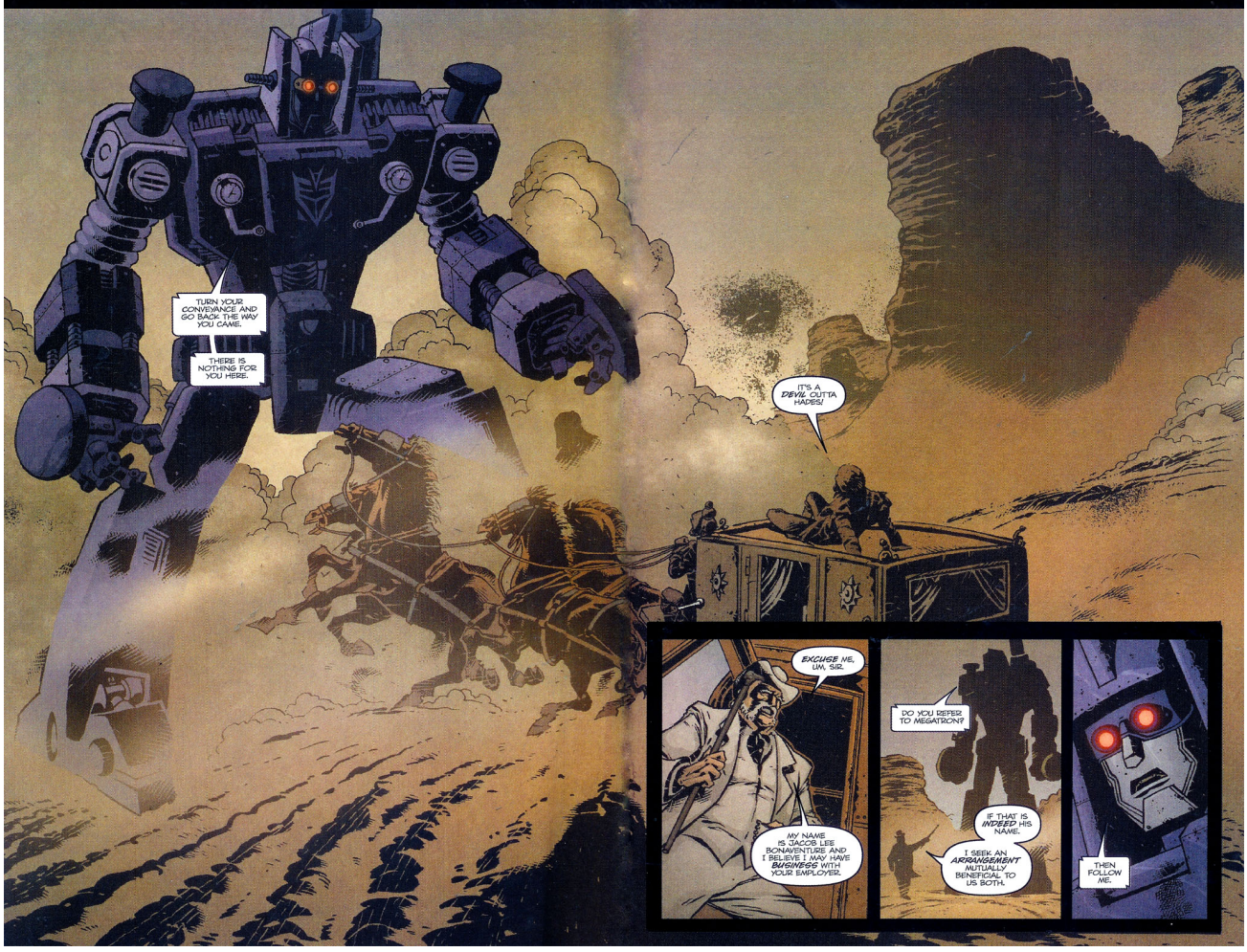
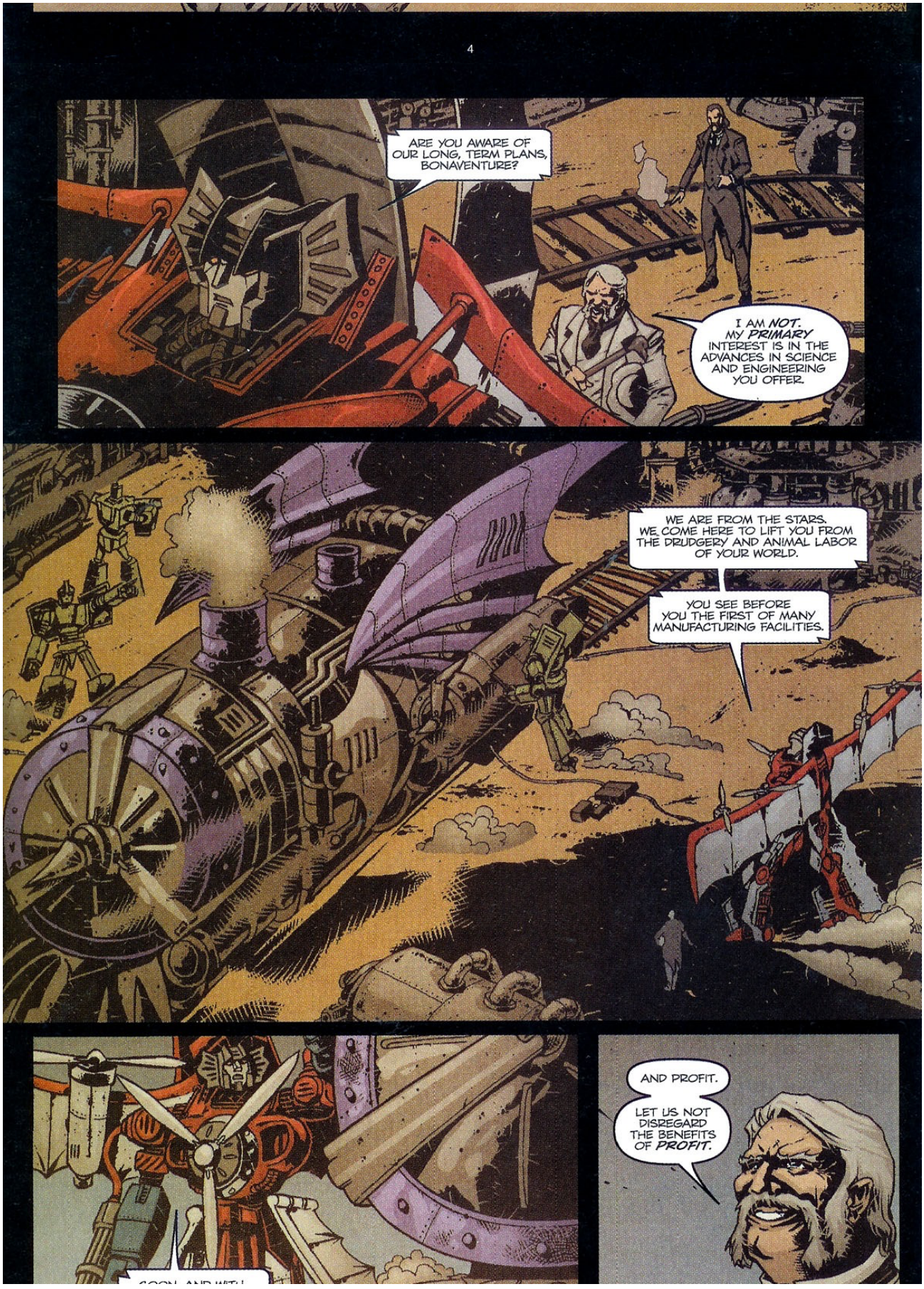


--THE BOSSMAN SAYS--
COME NO FURTHER

1


TURN YOUR CONVEYANCE AND GO BACK THE WAY YOU CAME.
THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU HERE.
IT'S A DEVIL OUTTA HADES!
EXCUSE ME, UM, SIR.
MY NAME IS JACOB LEE BONAVENTURE AND I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE BUSINESS WITH YOUR EMPLOYER.
DO YOU REFER TO MEGATRON?
IF THAT IS INDEED HIS NAME.
I SEEK AN ARRANGEMENT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO US BOTH.
THEN FOLLOW ME.

MEGATRON IS CURRENTLY POWERED DOWN.
STATE YOUR INTENTIONS TO ME, HUMAN.
WELL, MR. STARSCREAM, I AM AN INDUSTRIALIST— A MAN OF COMMERCE.
I HAVE USED MY CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO LOCATE YOUR OPERATION HERE.
YOUR RECENT— SEIZURE—OF FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INDICATES A NEED FOR FUNDS ON YOUR PART.
I AM HERE TO OFFER A PARTNERSHIP IN EXCHANGE FOR VENTURE CAPITAL AND MATERIAL.
WE HAVE NEED OF AN INTERMEDIARY. SECRECY IS IMPORTANT TO US.
I SHALL SERVE AS YOUR DISCRETE AGENT IN ALL AFFAIRS INVOLVING, WELL, HUMAN BEINGS.


ARE YOU AWARE OF OUR LONG, TERM PLANS, BONAVENTURE?
I AM NOT. MY PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN THE ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING YOU OFFER.
WE ARE FROM THE STARS. WE COME HERE TO LIFT YOU FROM THE DRUDGERY AND ANIMAL LABOR OF YOUR WORLD.
YOU SEE BEFORE YOU THE FIRST OF MANY MANUFACTURING FACILITIES.
AND PROFIT.
LET US NOT DISREGARD THE BENEFITS OF PROFIT.

SOON, AND WITH YOUR AID, THE EARTH WILL BECOME AS OUR HOMEWORLD OF CYBERTRON—
—A TECHNOARCHY RULED BY EFFICIENCY, LOGIC, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE.

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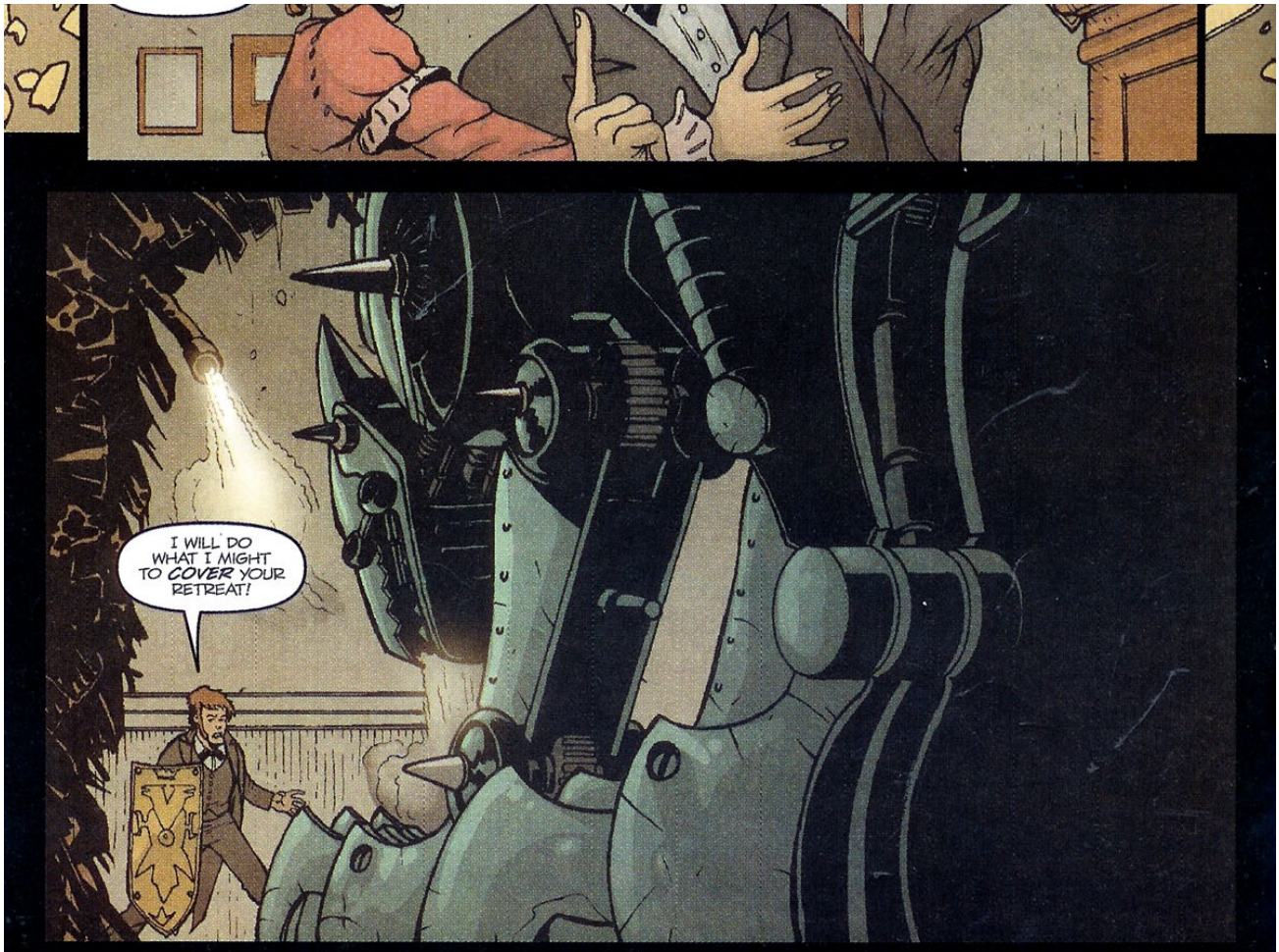
ABSOLUTE NONSENSE, MULDOON.
TOBIAS, IS IT A FEVER YOU SUFFER FROM?
I ONLY WISH IT WERE, KITTY.
YOUR FATHER MAY BE RIGHT. I MIGHT BE MAD.

LET US NOT RUSH TO REGARD YOUR SANITY AS LOST, SON.
PERHAPS YOU MERELY SAW SOMETHING BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO FULLY RECKON.
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS, MR TWAIN. ONLY—
THAT SOUND—LIKE AN APPROACHING TRAIN—
HOPELESSLY MAD.
6
KITTY!
THEY'VE FOUND ME!
GODFREY DANIEL!
SO, THERE IS SOME TRUTH TO THE LAD'S FANTASTIC TALE.

A MOST ENTERTAINING EVENING, AS IT TURNS OUT.
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
IT IS A TRICK OF SOME SORT!
7
DEAR LORD!
IT IS NO ILLUSION, FATHER!
TOBIAS' MONSTERS ARE QUITE REAL!
GET YOURSELVES TO SAFETY, KITTY!



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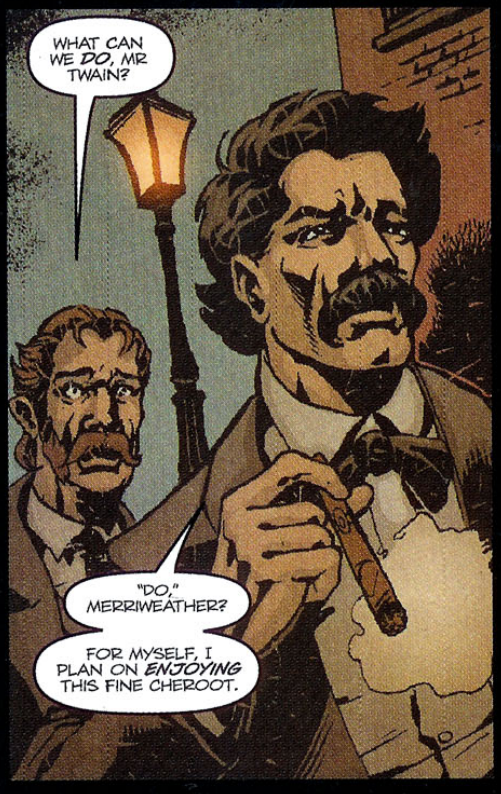
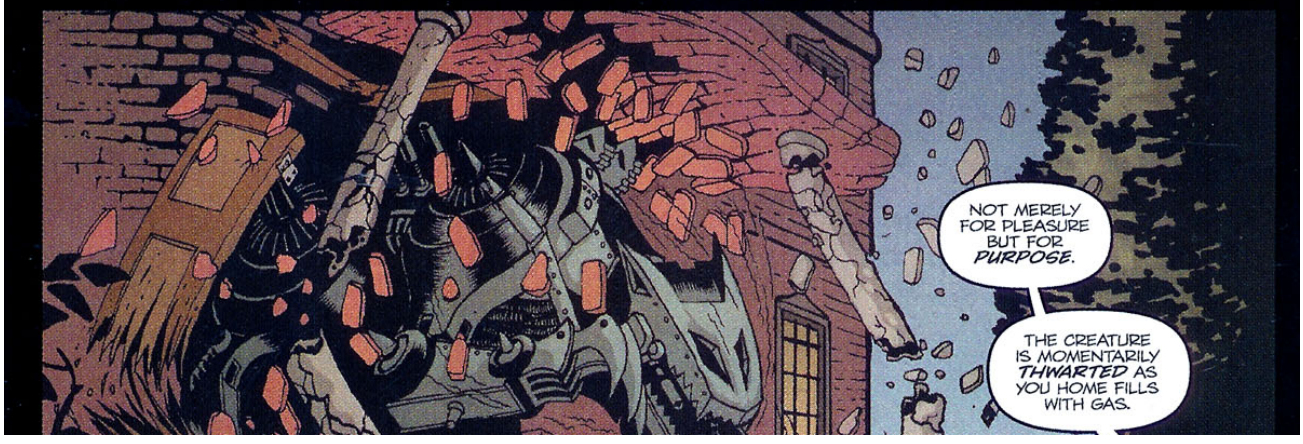
MADNESS!
I HAVE LOST MY SENSES!
IF SEEING CLOCKWORK PUMAS IS A SYMPTOM OF DEMENTIA—
—THEN WE ARE ALL BOUND FOR BEDLAM, SIR.
TOBIAS—
YOUR FELLOW STANDS BEFORE THAT CRITTER LIKE HORATIO AT THE BRIDGE.

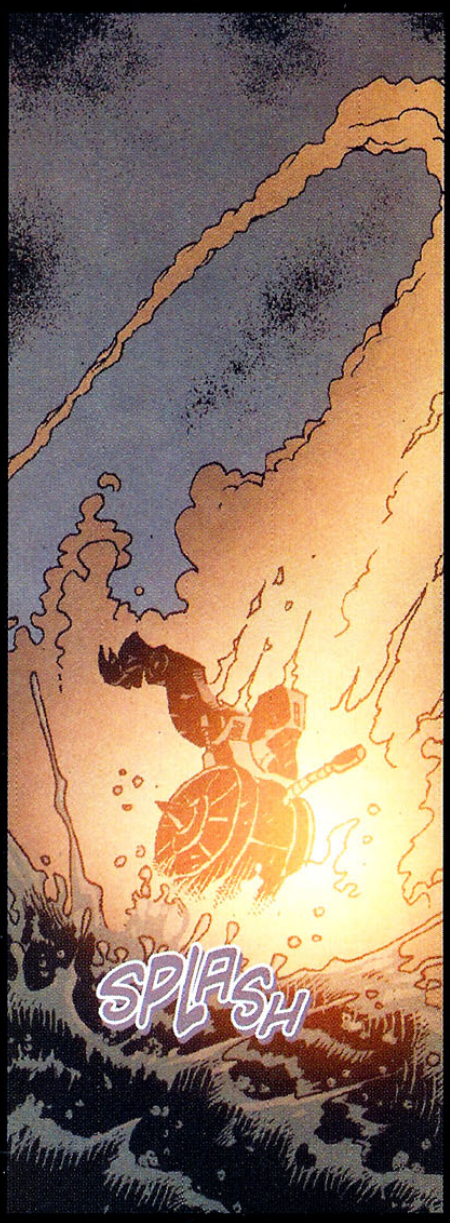
GAH!

TOBIAS! OH MY DEAR!
-KAFF! KAFF!-
I DID LITTLE MORE THAN ANGER IT FURTHER, I FEAR.

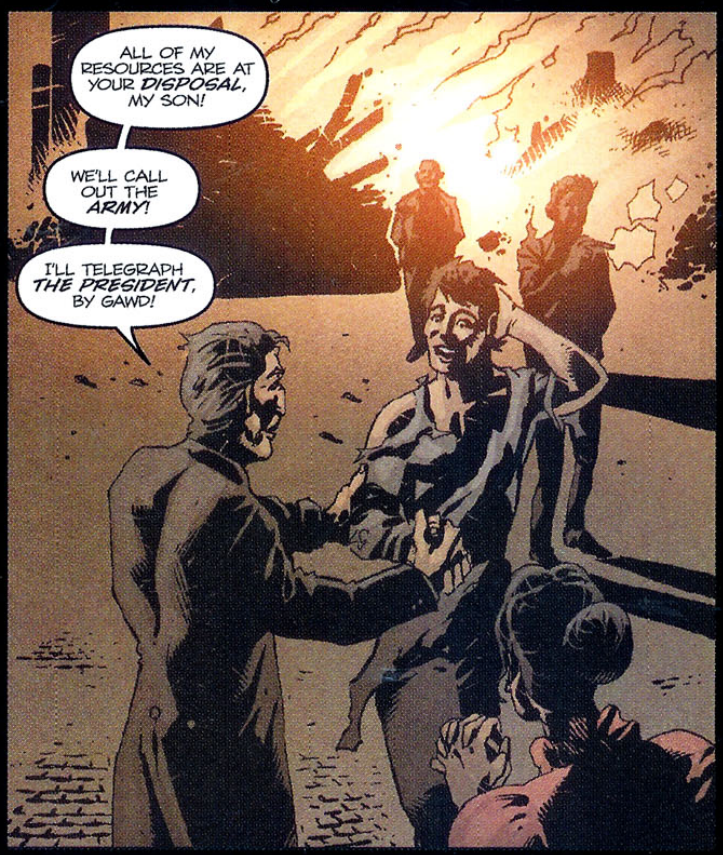

WHAT CAN WE DO, MR TWAIN?
"DO," MERRIWEATHER?
FOR MYSELF, I PLAN ON ENJOYING THIS FINE CHEROOT.


NOT MERELY FOR PLEASURE BUT FOR PURPOSE.
THE CREATURE IS MOMENTARILY THWARTED AS YOU HOME FILLS WITH GAS.

AND THE MEREST EMBER MIGHT IMPROVE OUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL
RUN!
BA-BOOM
WELL!


SPLASH

IT'S TRUE.
IT'S ALL TRUE.


ALL OF MY RESOURCES ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL, MY SON!
WE'LL CALL OUT THE ARMY!
I'LL TELEGRAPH THE PRESIDENT, BY GAWD!

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH A SIGHT, VANFLEET?
CAN'T SAY AS I HAVE, MR. BONAVENTURE.
MACHINES BUILDING MACHINES. NOT A SIGN OF HUMAN LABOR.
NO SLEEP. NO SLOWDOWNS. NO PAYROLL.
WHO KNEW THAT LITTLE YELLOW LOCOMOTIVE WOULD LEAD TO THIS, SIR?
YELLOW LOCOMOTIVE?

TELL ME *MORE*, HUMAN.
UM... IT WAS A BLACK AND YELLOW *STEAM* ENGINE. SHOWED UP OUT OF *NOWHERE*.
I *REPORTED* IT TO MR. BONAVENTURE. IT WAS NOWHERE ON OUR BOOKS.
WE SET THE *PINKERTONS* ON IT AND THEY TURNED UP A TEAMSTER TRAIN HAULING GOODS TO THE BACKEND OF *BEYOND*.
TO HERE.
BUMBLEBEE.
THE AUTOBOTS ARE ACTIVATED.
SQUAWKBOX!

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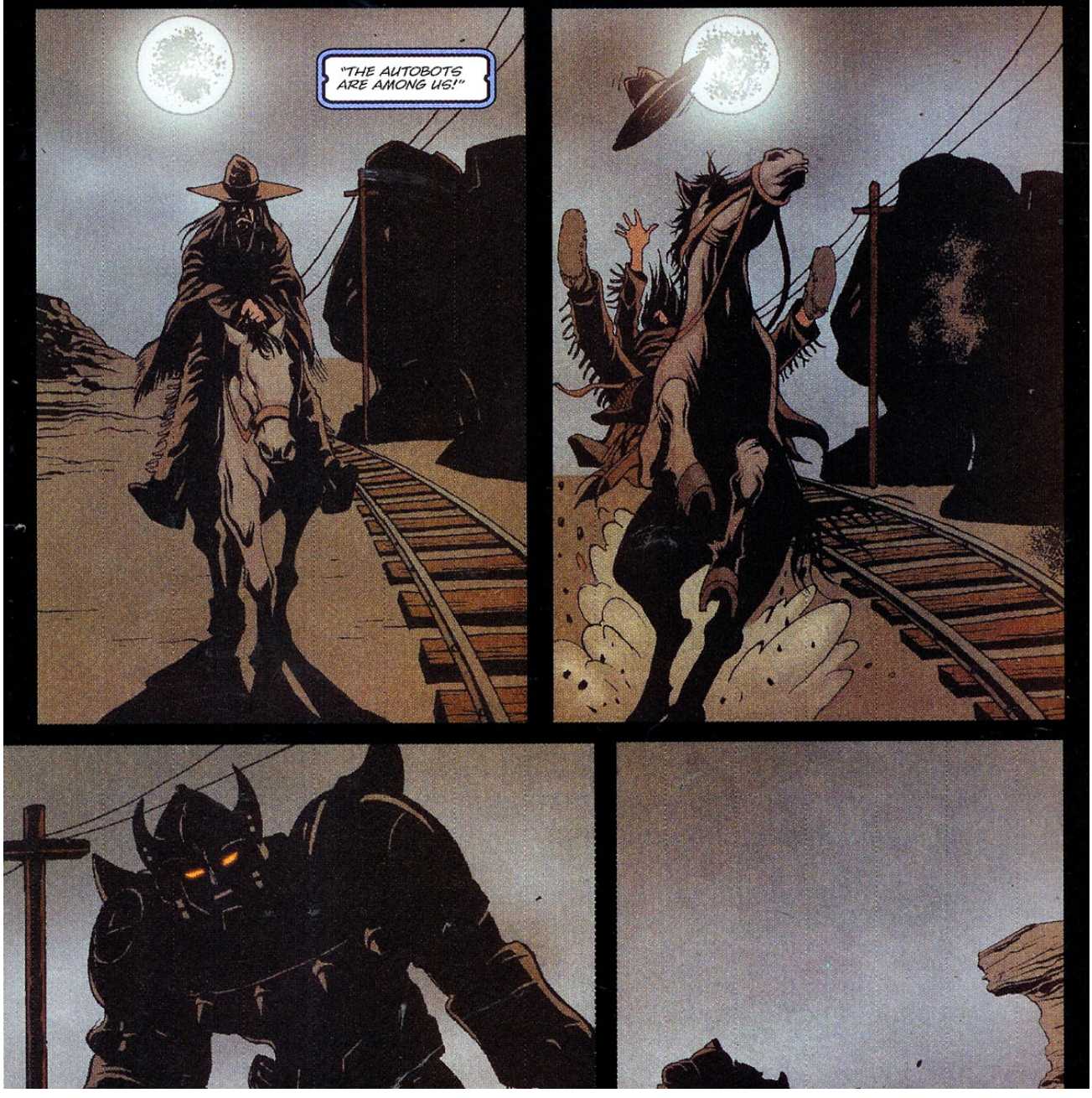


WHEN JOHN HENRY WAS A LITTLE BABY NO BIGGER THAN THE PALM OF YO' HAND HIS DADDY LOOKS DOWN AT JOHNNIE AND SAID...
...MY BABY'S GONNA BE A STEEL DRIVIN' MAN LAWD, LAWD HE GONNA BE A STEEL DRIVIN' MAN.
WHEN JOHN HENRY WAS A LITTLE CHILD SITTING ON HIS DADDY'S KNEE HE PICKED UP A HAMMER AND A SPIKE OF STEEL-
YOU BOYS ARE PUTTIN' ME OFF MY FEED WITH THAT MUSIC.
THAT DAGGED SONG'S GONNA BE THE DEATH O'ME.
-AND SAID THIS HAMMER'S GONNA BE THE DEATH O'ME LAWD LAWD THIS HAMMER'S GONNA BE THE DEATH

O'ME.
JOHN HENRY?
I HEARD MUSIC, JOHN.
MUSIC? I THOUGHT A CAT GOT HIS TAIL CAUGHT IN THE COAL BIN DOOR.
I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE, JOHN.
YOU LEAVIN' FOR HOME, BUMBLEBEE?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, MY FRIEND.
WE HAVE LOCATED OUR ENEMIES, THE DECEPTICONS. THEY ARE UP TO THEIR OLD WAYS.
WE HAVE INTERCEPTED TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES BETWEEN THEM IN BINARY CODES.
BUY NERRY?

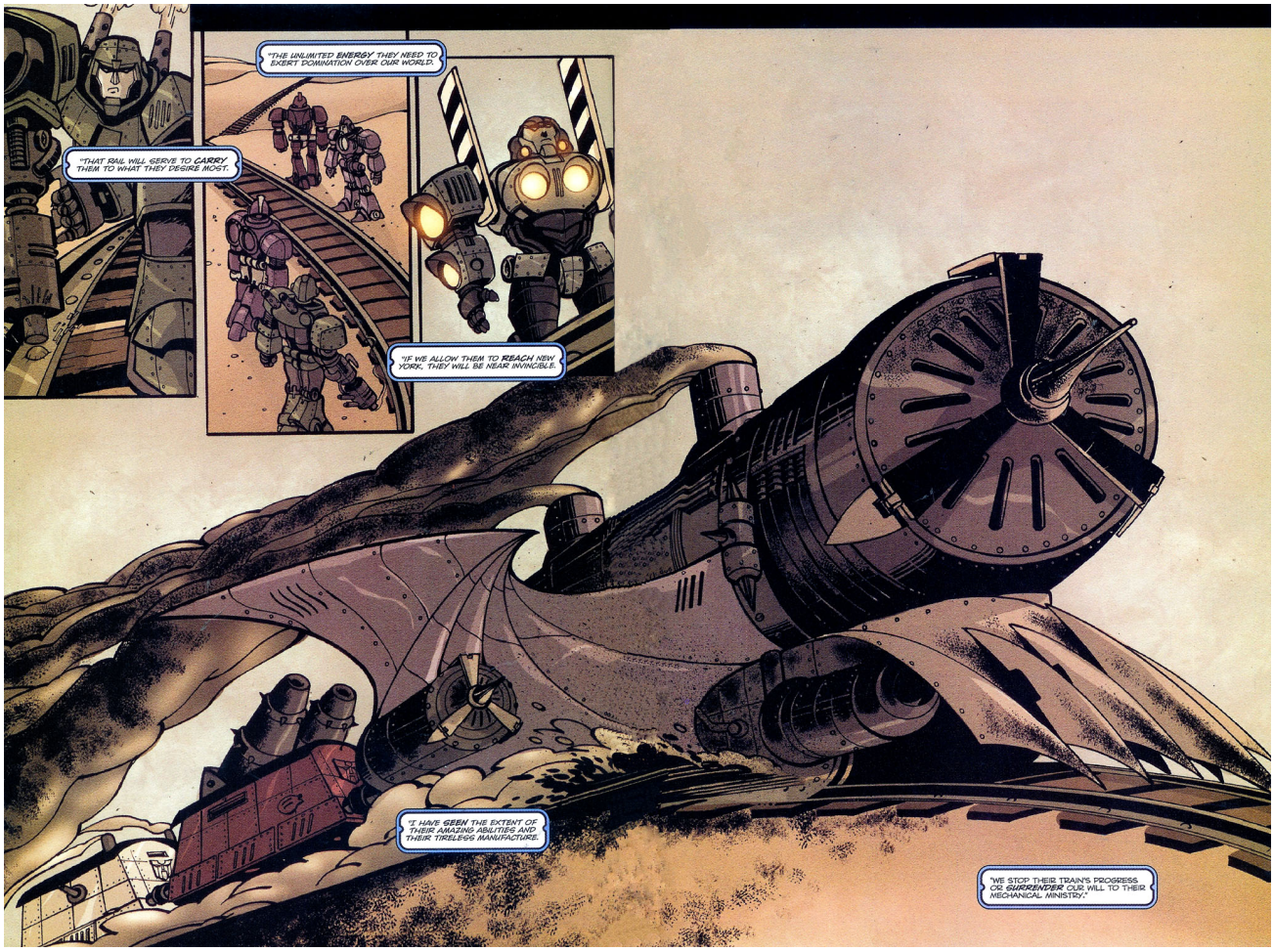
SO WE ARE OFF TO CONTINUE OUR WAR AGAINST THEM.
I MAY NOT RETURN.
FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME, ALL US FLESH AND BLOOD FOLKS GOT A STAKE IN THIS, TOO.
I NEVER LET A MAN FIGHT MY FIGHTS FOR ME.
YOU JUST LET ME GET MY HAMMER, FRIEND.
YOU'RE GONNA NEED SOME MUSCLE WITH YOUR IRON.

MOVE YOUR LAZY BONES!
WHUZZIT?
UH? WHUH?
JOHN, THE SUN AIN'T EVEN NEAR UP.
WE'RE MOVIN' TO ANOTHER JOB SITE, BRAWLEY.
WE AIN'T BEEN PAID,
JUMPIN' JIMMIES.

JOHN.
THIS AIN'T ABOUT WAGES, CLETUS.
WHAH?
WE'RE RIDIN' EAST WITH A NEW RAIL GANG.
GET YOUR BINDLES AND COME ON ABOARD.

COMPANY, HALT!
HO!
THIS IS WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
NOT A SOUL ABOUT.
QUINCANNON!
YES, SIR!
LOOK FOR A TELEGRAPH LINE SOMEWHERE AND INFORM SACREMENTO—
—WHATEVER CHICKENS THEY'RE LOOKING FOR HAVE FLOWN THE COOP.
THE CAVALRY FOUND YOUR

FACTORY, TOBIAS.
BUT NO *SIGN* OF YOUR STEEL GIANTS.
THERE'S NO *TRACK* LAID EAST OF THERE SON.
THEN THEY'VE COMPLETED THEIR ENGINE AND WILL BE HEADING *EAST*.
THEY'LL *BUILD* ONE, MR TWAIN. AND WITH A SPEED YOU CANNOT *IMAGINE*.
THEIR SHEER INDUSTRY IS ASTOUNDING.
THEY CAN *JOIN* THE NEVADA PACIFIC LINE HERE NEAR BENTEEN.
BENTEEN
"THAT WILL GIVE THEM *CONTINUOUS* RAIL ALL THE WAY TO THE EMPIRE STATE."


"THE UNLIMITED ENERGY THEY NEED TO EXERT DOMINATION OVER OUR WORLD.
"THAT RAIL WILL SERVE TO CARRY THEM TO WHAT THEY DESIRE MOST.
"IF WE ALLOW THEM TO REACH NEW YORK, THEY WILL BE NEAR INVINCIBLE.
"I HAVE SEEN THE EXTENT OF THEIR AMAZING ABILITIES AND THEIR TIRELESS MANUFACTURE.
"WE STOP THEIR TRAIN'S PROGRESS OR SURRENDER OUR WILL TO THEIR MECHANICAL MINISTRY."

SO, JOHN HENRY WAS ROLLIN' EASTWARD HIGHBALLIN DOWN THE DENVER LINE HE HAD HIS HAMMER AND HIS NEWFOUND FRIENDS.
SAYIN', GOTTA GET ME TO NEW YORK ON TIME LAWD LAWD GOTTA GET ME TO NEW YORK ON TIME.

BUMBLEBEE WAS AN ENGINE FORGED FROM PITTSBURGH IRON HAD A FURNACE FOR A HEART AND A BELLYFUL OF COAL AND HE'D WIN OR HE'D DIE TRYIN' LAWD LAWD HE'D WIN OR HE'D DIE TRYIN'.
TO BE CONTINUED...

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